

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08055 01 OF 02 291934Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /026 W
-----102768 291938Z /43

O 291843Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3455

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 8055

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO
SUBJ: STARR KIDNAPPING

REF: BOGOTA 8016

1. GOC MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE NOW GIVEN US TAPE RECORDING
OF TELEPHONIC DEBRIEFING OF DEFECTOR. THE FOLLOWING IS
OUR TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION OF THIS TAPE, THE
ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED AND
REPORTED IN REFTEL. (BRIEF SECTIONS OF THE TAPE WERE UNREADABLE.)
ARMY COLONEL (COL): WHEN WAS HE (STARR) TAKEN, WHAT TIME
WAS IT MORE OR LESS?
DEFECTOR(D): I BELIEVE ABOUT 5:20 A.M. I WAS NOT THERE.
I ARRIVED AROUND 5:40.
COL: YOU TOLD ME HE WAS TAKEN FROM A HOUSE. WAS HE FORCED
OR DID HE COME OUT VOLUNTARILY?
D: ACCORDING TO THOSE WHO TOOK HIM, HE WAS IN THE HOUSE
WHERE HE LIVED. HE HAD HIS BED.
COL: THE PEOPLE AT THAT HOUSE HAD ACCUSED HIM,
SAYING THAT HE BELONGED TO THE CIA OR SOMETHING
LIKE THAT, HAD THEY ACCUSED OR FINGERED HIM...
OR THE GUERRILLEROS ALREADY KNEW THAT HE WAS THERE?
D: THEY HAD TAKEN SOME DATA PREVIOUSLY BEFORE THE
ASSAULT THAT THERE WERE 5 GRINGOS THERE. THEN THEY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 08055 01 OF 02 291934Z

WERE GOING FOR 5 BUT THE OTHERS HAD ALREADY GONE.
THEY FOUND ONLY RICHARD STARR.
COL: HE SPOKE ONLY ENGLISH. HE DID NOT SPEAK ANY
SPANISH AT ALL?
D: AT THE END, HE WAS SPEAKING, HE COULD BE UNDERSTOOD
SOME, YES. HE COULD DEFEND HIMSELF; WELL, FOR EXAMPLE,
ABOUT THE QUESTION OF ELIMINATION; WELL, CERTAIN

THINGS, BUT SINCE THEY WOULD NOT LET US BE VERY NEAR HIM, THEY ALWAYS PUT THOSE NEAR HIM WHO COULD UNDERSTAND AND DEAL WITH HIM OR GET THINGS OUT OF HIM.

COL: DID THEY TIE HIM OR DID HE WALK NORMALLY?

D: HE WENT SIMPLY AS A DETAINEE, THAT IS ALL, HE WAS NOT TIED, NOR TREATED BAD. HE MIGHT SAY ANYTHING AND HE WAS TAKEN CARE OF.

COL: YOU SAID THAT HE WAS OFFERED A GIRL, A GUERRILLA, TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, TO HELP HIM, A YOUNG GIRL OR AN OLD WOMAN?

D: SHE WAS OLD, YES. SHE WAS THERE SOLELY FOR HELPING HIM, WITH CLOTHES; THAT SORT OF THING.

COL: YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU SAW HIM KIND OF SICKLY. I IMAGINE SICK OF HIS FEET, SICK TO HIS STOMACH, SUFFERING DISCOMFORT, WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

D: LET US SAY IT WAS A QUESTION OF MORALE, YES.

COL: WEAK, MORALLY WEAKENED?

D: EXACTLY. HE IS A LITTLE SICK. I WOULD ANALYZE HIM, NO ONE EVER TOLD ME ANYTHING BUT I ANALYZED HIM.

COL: NOW, DO YOU REMEMBER IF HE WAS DRESSED THE SAME AT ALL TIMES OR DID THEY PUT GUERRILLA CLOTHES ON HIM, OR WAS HE GOING TO USE HIS OWN CLOTHES AT ALL TIMES.

D: HE ONLY USED HIS OWN CLOTHES.. HIS CLOTHES; AND HE WOULD CHANGE.

COL: YOU TOLD ME THAT HE HAD OFFERED 50 PESOS. 50 PESOS TO THE GUERRILLA. TOO LITTLE?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 08055 01 OF 02 291934Z

D: IT WAS THAT IN REALITY HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. AND WHEN HE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS A PROBLEM THAT COULD NOT BE RESOLVED IN THAT MANNER THEN HE STOPPED TRYING TO PAY. WE TOLD HIM IT WAS NOT A MATTER THAT COULD BE RESOLVED IN THAT MANNER BUT THAT HAD TO BE RESOLVED IN ANOTHER WAY.

COL: YOU DO NOT REMEMBER IF THE PEOPLE THERE AT THE HOUSE, THAT REGION, IF THEY TRIED TO DEFEND HIM OR IF THEY TRIED TO GET THE GUERRILLEROS TO NOT TAKE HIM?

D: NO, I AM NOT AWARE...I BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE DID NOT TRY, BECAUSE THEY WERE SCARED.

COL: ANY OF THE GUERRILLA CHIEFS SPEAK ENGLISH?

D: CARLOS, MARCOS, AND JAMIL.

COL: YOU SAID YOU BELIEVED THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN ASSASSINATED; THEY HAVE NO REASON FOR ASSASSINATING HIM. YOU DO NOT BELIEVE HE HAS BEEN ASSASSINATED.

D: IT SEEMS THAT THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THEY COULD NOT DETERMINE OR UNDERSTAND WHETHER HE BELONGED TO THE CIA. THEY CLAIMED THAT IF THAT WERE SO THERE COULD BE NO ALTERNATIVE.

COL: OF COURSE.

D: YOU UNDERSTAND. MORE OR LESS, I CANNOT SAY MORE

BECAUSE THERE IS NO NEED.

COL: I UNDERSTAND, I UNDERSTAND.

D: THEN, I WAS TOLD THAT SOMEBODY HAD LET HIM LOOSE,
THAT A GUY FROM THE "GENERAL STAFF" HAD TAKEN HIM OUT
AND SET HIM FREE. IT SEEMED A BIT STRANGE TO ME, THE
MANNER IN WHICH HE WAS FREED.

COL: WELL THAT WAS A REPORT, BUT I SEE IT AS
DIFFICULT, IF HE HAD BEEN FREED HE WOULD HAVE APPEARED
BY NOW.

D: EXACTLY.

COL: WHAT OTHER THING DO YOU RECALL? YOU SAW HIM
DRUING FIVE DAYS. DID HE WALK OR DID HE RIDE HORSEBACK
AT ANY TIME.

D: HE WALKED DURING THE FIVE DAYS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 08055 01 OF 02 291934Z

COL: DID HE EAT THE SAME FOOD AS THE GUERRILLAS
OR DID HE EAT SPECIAL FOODS?

D: ACTUALLY HE ATE BADLY FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO DAYS,
THEY COULD NOT GET ANYTHING THRERE ANF THE FOOD WAS
ELSEWHERE UNTIL WE ARRIVED THERE AND HE ATE SOMEWHAT
BADLY. HE SUFFERED SOME DISCOMFORT DUE TO THE FOOD.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08055 02 OF 02 291943Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /026 W

-----102873 291948Z /62

O 291843Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3456

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 8055

EXDIS

COL: AND HOW ABOUT SLEEP? DID HE SLEEP ON THE GROUND
OR IN A HAMMOCK, WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

D: HE HAD HIS HAMMOCK AND ALL HIS EQUIPMENT. HE
WOULD BE CALM AND SLEEP IN HIS HAMMOCK. HE HAD NO

TENT. HE WOULD CALM HIMSELF, AND SLEEP IN HIS HAMMOCK.

COL: HOW DID YOU SEE HIM AS A PERSON? WAS HE AN
HEROIC MAN, SMILING, AMIABLE, CORDIAL OR WAS HE A QUIET
MAN, PREOCCUPIED? HOW DID YOU OBSERVE HIM IN THOSE
DAYS?

D: IN RESPECT TO THAT, I ANALYZED THAT HE WAS A TRANQUIL
MAN...BECAUSE IN A TYPE OF PROBLEM LIKE THAT ONE CAN BE
VERY SHARP...HE WAS TRANQUIL, CALM, SMILING; HE WOULD
SPEAK. OF COURSE, LOGICALLY, HE WAS VERY PREOCCUPIED.

COL: DID THE CHIEFS SPEAK TO HIM EVERY DAY?

D: THEY CHATTED WITH HIM EVERY DAY, ASKING HIM ABOUT
HIS HEALTH, WHAT DID HE THINK OF THE SITUATION, THIS
AND THAT.

COL: YOU TOLD ME PREVIOUSLY THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE
KILLED THEM, IT WAS NOT THEIR INTENTION?

D: HIS PROBLEM WAS THAT WHEN THEY TOOK HIM THEY TOOK
A FEW ITEMS.

COL: CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT KIND OF ITEMS?

D: ITEMS, CAMERAS AND LENSES, ALL THOSE THEY TOOK
FROM HIM AND OTHER THINGS, THAT ACTUALLY I HAD TO TAKE
MYSELF AND THEY WERE VERY DELICATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 08055 02 OF 02 291943Z

COL: WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER? ANY DETAIL, FOR AS
INSIGNIFICANT AS IT MAY SEEM, WITH RESPECT TO SLEEP,
THREATS, PROMISES.

D: ABOUT THE THIRD DAY THEY TOOK HIS CLOTHES, EVERY-
THING WAS PACKED (NOT READABLE).

COL: THE LAST TIME THAT YOU SAW HIM?

D: HE WAS OF ANOTHER "AMBIENCE." HE WAS WORRIED, UNEASY, HE
ASKED THAT HE BE SET FREE. HE LEFT WITH THREE ENLISTED MEN
AND THREE SICK MEN.

COL: WAS HE ONE OF THE SICK MEN?

D: NO, THEY WERE GUERRILLAS.

COL: DO YOU REMEMBER, IF HE CARRIED A PERSONAL ARM
(WEAPON), REVOLVER, SOMETHING, DID HE CARRY A
WEAPON? THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE FOUND IN HIS POSSESSION
WHEN THEY TOOK HIM?

D: NO (NOT READABLE) IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO ME THAT
THEY TOOK A WEAPON FROM HIM.

THEY ONLY TOOK AS I SAID THE
CAMERAS AND THE LENSES. THE OTHER THINGS THEY DID NOT
WANT TO TAKE THEY LEFT THERE.

COL: LIKE WHAT?

D: LET US SAY LIKE THINGS RELATING TO RECONNAISSANCE,
BUT THEY DID NOT TAKE THEM, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE
PROBLEM WAS.

COL: WELL, I APPRECIATE THIS VERY MUCH.

DREXLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, DEBRIEFINGS, DEFECTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BOGOTA08055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770312-0202
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770814/aaaaalid.tel
Line Count: 223
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 410c5851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 BOGOTA 8016
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1455129
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STARR KIDNAPPING
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/410c5851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009